4. Prohibition.

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.

Mr. V V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—The resolution standing in my name reads thus:—

"*This Council requests the Government to formulate a comprehensive programme of work to be followed by the Excise Department so as to realise absolute prohibition within a course of five years.*

The object of moving this resolution is to realise a policy which has been enunciated in this House times out of number. The policy which has been urged by the non-official Members of this House and which has been accepted by the Government on their part—the policy of prohibition, I may say—is a policy which has been brought to the notice of the House by means of a number of resolutions and cut motions during the budget debate. I say that, so far as this policy is concerned, there would not be any dispute, so far as any Member of this Council is concerned. The advantages which are to be achieved need not be reiterated by me. The advantages to be derived by pursuing a policy of prohibition, the material prosperity attained by America, the large increase in the revenues derived by America, the complete success attained by America in this direction, all point to the fact that complete prohibition is both possible and beneficial to the people. We find that America has attained complete prohibition, and that policy has been continued without break. Therefore, the object of attaining complete prohibition, that cannot in any way be opposed by any Member of this House. I may, in this connection, point out the fact that Government have declared on a number of occasions that attaining complete prohibition by degrees is their Excise policy, *i. e.* to realise prohibition during the course of a few years. From the Administration Report which has been published this year, at page 16, we find that there was no change in the system of administration and policy in vogue.

"In furtherance of the general Excise policy,

(a) the number of shops was reduced by 7 under arrack and by 11 under toddy;

(b) the duty on arrack was enhanced from Rs 4—11—0 to Rs. 5 per proof gallon in the Southern Taluks and from Rs. 8—7—0 to Rs 8—12—0 per proof gallon in the Northern Taluks;

(c) the tree tax was enhanced from Rs. 6, 12 and 2 to Rs. 7, 14 and 3 per cocoanut, sago and palmyra respectively per year."

So the attainment of complete prohibition has been accepted by the Government. Several suggestions have been made from the non-official side of this House by way of resolutions and questions. And it appears that some of these have

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been followed by the Government, as is clear from the Administration Report. But with respect to the realisation of the object in view, of the policy laid down by this House, we are even now far far away. In this connection I have also to refer to the Administration Report which says that, in spite of following these remedies which have been suggested, we find that the consumption of arrack has gone on by leaps and bounds, and we find in 1104 the consumption of arrack was 49,184 gallons as against 41,420 gallons in the previous year. So there is an increase of 7,764 gallons in 1104. That is, we find there has been an increase of consumption by 18 per cent in arrack. Now, we find in other matters also that, in spite of the ordinary policy of prohibition being followed by Government, the goal is far from being reached. My object in moving this resolution is to request the Government to formulate a comprehensive programme of work so that it may attain prohibition within the course of a few years. Now the policy is accepted by the Government. The remedy is prescribed by the people. Though the Government is following the remedies prescribed by the people, still we do not achieve it, and the blame is thrown out on the non-official side of this Council. I request the Government to frame a policy of its own to realise this result of prohibition within the course of 5 years. In view of the statement of policy made by the Government, I do not think that I am asking too much by requesting the Government to frame a programme of work to attain prohibition within the course of 5 years. Therefore, I want this House to accept this resolution.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I second it.

The House rose for the day at 1' to 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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